

ESQUIRE: January 1982: *Secrets of the Software Pirates* by Lee Gomes: "When some Apple enthusiasts in Washington State heard about the boycott (of Locksmith advertisements), they decided that it was nothing but censorship and another example of the magazines' ignoring the average Apple user to placate their advertisers. So they started their own publication, **HARDCORE COMPUTING**, which with its first issue came to play the role of iconoclastic underground magazine battling the industry's stodgy straight press."

TIME: February 8, 1982: *Roaming Hia-Tech Pirates*: "HARDCORE COMPUTING, a small magazine in Tacoma, Washington, warns pirates about the latest technology that companies are using against them."

5th Anniversary Issue

Yes, it has been five years since this magazine's inception: 5 years of rabid copy-protection by major software publishers, 5 years of censorship by major computer magazines about undoing copy-protection, 5 years of struggle and change for SoftKey Publishing in its effort to reveal suppressed information about copy-protection, 5 years of devoted support by our subscribers.

It all began in the attic of a small house in Tacoma, Washington (you know, that small 'town' next door to Seattle?) around midnight, the hacker's bewitching hour when everything is asleep except for the computers.

In the summer of '81, it seemed as if there was a plot to boycott a copy program called 'Locksmith' because, unlike Apple's COPYA, this program would copy disks that software publishers didn't want anyone, even the person who bought the disk, to backup.

Editors wrote editorials denouncing as pirates anyone who backed up their copy-protected software. Some even went so far as to distinguish between different sorts of pirates: commercial operators out to make a killing in violation of the US copyright laws, casual copiers out to expand their library by exchanging the copies they made of their own software, and accidental pirates who allow their software to be copied by one of the casual copiers.

Here are excerpts from some of those editorials:

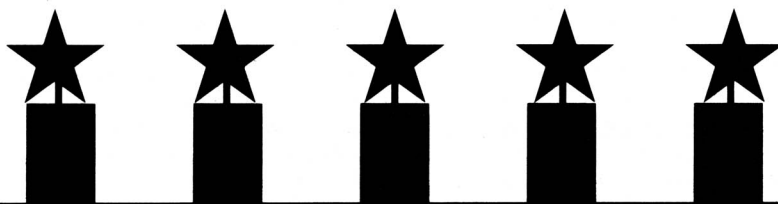
"The presence of a number of commercially available bit copy programs will probably stimulate many software companies to review their service policies. Those reviews should produce constructive new policies which improve pricing and availability of replacement packages. That will be a positive step.

The presence of commercially available bit copy programs can make it easier for software pirates to make unauthorized copies of commercial software for broad distribution. That is potentially a negative result.

But the bit copier itself is not logically or legally responsible for either. It is simply a program — one which can be used badly or well. The simple fact is, bit copy programs are now here."

Mike Harvey, publisher-editor
NIBBLE, volume 2, No.2

"Several other magazines in the industry have recently been running advertisements for a program that copies (duplicates) protected software for a particular machine. One of the magazines (Micro) checked with us to see our



We are NOT

PIRATES

but we're not fools, either.

We're serious programmers and software users who just want to have backup copies of any software we own. COMPUTIST magazine shows us HOW TO MAKE BACKUPS OF COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE regardless of the maker's attempt to stop us from having legal copies. Don't let them stop you from protecting your own rights.

Remove copy-protection

Remove copy-protection from your valuable library of expensive software. The publisher of COMPUTIST has been showing subscribers how to unlock and modify commercial software for the past 5 years. Don't be one of the users abused by user-FRIENDLY locked-up software.

6 issue SUBSCRIPTION RATES: U.S.: \$20 First class: \$24 Canada, Mexico: \$34 Other Foreign: \$60

SAMPLE COPY: U.S.: \$4.75 Foreign: \$8.00

US funds drawn on U.S. bank. Send check or money order to:

COMPUTIST; PO Box 110937-A; Tacoma, WA 98411

☐ NEW subscriber ☐ Renew my subscription ☐ New address

Name _____ ID# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ Phone _____

  _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____ CP32

subscribers, renew your freedom

Check your mailing label to see if you need to renew your subscription. And if you think you might forget when that fatal time arrives, renew right now. Just use this order blank.

and if you're moving...

Let us know right away or at least 30 days in advance so that you won't miss a single issue. Just write your new address on this order form, and include your present address label. Issues missed due to non-receipt of this Change-of-Address may be acquired at the regular back-issue rates.

Please remember, the Post Office does not forward third class mail unless requested.

feelings on such advertising. We indicated that we wouldn't run such ads, given that the software in question could be used to produce copies of 'protected' and proprietary software. We understand that Micro has since decided to do the same.

We applaud this move toward protecting the rights of the software industry and encourage additional comment."

Robert Lock, publisher-editor
COMPUTE, volume 3, No.3

"MICRO is unconditionally opposed to the illegal copying of software listings, cassettes, diskettes or any other protected material. I am embarrassed that the need has arisen to make what should be an obvious statement of policy. Due to the publication of an advertisement in our January and February issues, a number of advertisers and readers have expressed concern that MICRO appeared to be supporting the illegal copying of protected disks. In retrospect, I believe that I made a mistake in allowing the ad to run..."

"The advertisement referred to above was for

a program that would copy 'protected' diskettes.

The staff of MICRO will now review every ad and where there are problems, take appropriate steps."

Robert M. Tripp, publisher-editor
MICRO, No.34, March 1981

And so began the censorship of advertising which continues unabated to this very day, even though the bit copy programs are now advertised with the disclaimer that they should not be used to pirate software.

However, our own ads are still being censored or refused, usually because our ads say that we show readers **how to remove (softkey) copy-protection** from their disk software.

That is why we are sending this special ANNIVERSARY issue to potential subscribers throughout the year. We took the normal COMPUTIST issue just before it was to go to print, added this special anniversary note and inserted the Computer Learning Center's catalog of public domain software as part of our subscription drive.

We thank all our loyal subscribers and readers for their continuing support.

into the past...

Yes, we were once called **HARDCORE** Computing, then we became **CORE** and **Hardcore COMPUTIST**, and now simply **COMPUTIST**. For those of you who are confused, here's a list of all our publications to date:

1981

Hardcore Computing No. 1
Update 1.1 newsletter

1982

Hardcore Computing No. 2
Update 2.1 newsletter
Hardcore Computing No. 3
Update 3.1 newsletter
Update 3.2 newsletter

1983

CORE No. 1 Graphics special
Hardcore COMPUTIST 1
Hardcore COMPUTIST 2
CORE No. 2 Utilities special
Hardcore COMPUTIST 3
Hardcore COMPUTIST 4
CORE No. 3 Games special
Hardcore COMPUTIST 5

1984

Hardcore COMPUTIST 6
Hardcore COMPUTIST 7
Hardcore COMPUTIST 8
Hardcore COMPUTIST 9
Hardcore COMPUTIST 10
Hardcore COMPUTIST 11
Hardcore COMPUTIST 12
Hardcore COMPUTIST 13
Hardcore COMPUTIST 14
Hardcore COMPUTIST 15

1985

Hardcore COMPUTIST 16
Hardcore COMPUTIST 17
Hardcore COMPUTIST 18
Hardcore COMPUTIST 19
Hardcore COMPUTIST 20
Hardcore COMPUTIST 21
Hardcore COMPUTIST 22
Hardcore COMPUTIST 23
Hardcore COMPUTIST 24
Hardcore COMPUTIST 25
Hardcore COMPUTIST 26

1986

COMPUTIST 27
COMPUTIST 28
COMPUTIST 29
COMPUTIST 30
COMPUTIST 31
COMPUTIST 32

COMPUTIST IS NOW PUBLISHED 12 times a year. Some back issues are still available (see the back issues ad on the back page!)

new to hacking?

COMPUTIST magazine is dedicated to the *serious* user of Apple II computers. However, each issue contains informative articles dealing with subjects even novices can follow.

Our statistics show that once you've read this far, you're with us for life. As a matter of fact, most COMPUTIST readers prefer our magazine to any others they receive or have received (and the rest are pretty darn happy with it).

For You

Through the years, COMPUTIST has had two main goals: 1) to show our readers, in as clear a format as possible, how to copy the 'uncopyable' programs they have purchased and 2) to teach our readers what they want to know about their computer.

Each month we detail the copying of several commercial programs. Whether an old classic like Miner 2049er (in COMPUTIST No. 27) or a new masterpiece like Fantavision (in COMPUTIST No. 30) you can be sure it has been or will be covered in COMPUTIST.

We listen to our readers' needs. If you have a program that you wish you could copy, just tell us and if we haven't already printed information about that program, we will add it to our "Most Wanted List," which is a list of the software you will most likely see covered in future issues of COMPUTIST.

At the Core

To add a little flavor to our publication, each issue contains a CORE section which can contain anything from high-quality free software to tutorials on a variety of subjects (computer hardware modifications, the ins and outs of DOS, etc).

Through the CORE section, you'll learn about about the VTOC, sector editing, modified ROMs, Ultima IV characters, boot code tracing and much much more. Our readers are our authors, so as they learn you will too. You may even wish to write an article yourself and earn extra money.

You will find that as COMPUTIST takes you by the hand through the dark recesses of the machine language Monitor you will learn more about how and why your computer does what it does than you could learn from reading a textbook.

Magazine Reference Material

Back issues of COMPUTIST are considered a valuable asset when you need hints on repairing damaged files or converting a disk you can't duplicate into one that you can. A survey we took of our readers showed that 91.2% of them keep every issue of COMPUTIST and add it to their reference material library. How many other magazines can you say that about?

COMPUTIST is Best

Thousands of satisfied readers can't be wrong. Whether it is removing copy protection from commercial disks or teaching about the heart of your computer, COMPUTIST is best!